



**For Immediate Release
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**STATE ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PORTION OF
CAPE COD RAIL TRAIL**

Today, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced that on September 15, 2006, it will close an 11-mile portion of the Cape Cod Rail Trail from Mitchell Lane in Brewster to LeCount Hollow Road in South Wellfleet to make extensive improvements to the trail and surrounding environs. The affected section is scheduled to reopen in June 2007.

Phase 1 of the trail improvements, encompassing a portion of the trail from the trailhead at Route 134 in Dennis to Nickerson State Park in Brewster, was recently completed, and that portion of the trail was reopened on time, on June 17.

“We are thrilled to begin the last stage of improvements to the Cape Cod Rail Trail,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “Given the success of Phase 1 of this project, we have only the highest hopes for Phase 2.”

Phase 2 improvements will be similar to those of Phase 1, and will include repaving the trail and widening it by 2 feet; upgrading the equestrian shoulder; selective removal of invasive plants along the trail; installation of root barriers designed to protect the pavement from tree roots; improved signage; installing innovative safety features at road intersections; and, installation of new wood rail fencing.

Additional improvements unique to Phase 2 include a salt marsh culvert replacement and repair of eroding embankments on Namskaket Creek at the Brewster/Orleans town line. Improvements will also be made to the LeCount Hollow Road parking lot. The rail trail picnic area in Nickerson State Park will be upgraded with new picnic tables and landscaping, and safety improvements will be made to the Route 6 bicycle tunnel in Eastham.

Due to the extensive excavation required for much of this work, the Phase 2 portion of the trail will be completely inaccessible while the improvements are being made. The Phase 1 portion will remain open during construction.

For more information, including maps detailing the Phase 1 and Phase 2 segments of the trail, see DCR’s Cape Cod Rail Trail web page: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/ccrt.htm>.

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